

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A controller for positioning on a shelf of a cabinet within a mass storage system for controlling communication among device enclosures in a reporting group. The  
5 controller includes an interface to a data communication loop linking device enclosures each including disk drives positioned on one or more cabinets. The interface is used to transmit control commands. A cabinet bus interface  
10 controller is provided and linked to a cabinet bus in the cabinet to receive enclosure reporting messages from the device enclosures to collect environment information. The cabinet bus interface transmits reporting messages onto the cabinet bus to provide environmental information. The  
15 interface controller determines the shelf location of the controller within the cabinet from signals on the cabinet bus and receives the cabinet identifier over the cabinet bus. A processor is linked to the interface controller and functions to create and issue the control commands to the loop interface.